

PRELIMINARY REMARKS.

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" A sailor.

** Callimela, Philargurus daughter.

" Blatte, her prattling nurse.

" SCENE, Athens."

STEEVENS.

Shakspeare undoubtedly formed this play, in some measure, on the passage in Plutarch's Life of Antony relative to Timon, and not altogether on the twenty-eighth novel of the first volume of Painter's Palace of Pleasure ; because he is there merely described as "a manhater, of a strange and beastly nature," without any cause assigned; whereas Plutarch furnished our author, with the following hint to work upon: " Antonius forsook the citie, and companie of his friendes,~-saying that he would lead Timon's life, because he had the like wrong offered him, that was offered unto Timon; and *for the unthankftdness of those he had done good unto, and whom he tooke to be hisfriendes, he was angry with all men, and would trust no man,*"

To the manuscript play mentioned by Mr. Steevens, our author, I have no doubt, was also indebted for some other circumstances. Here he found the faithful steward, the banquet-scene, and the story of Timon's being possessed of great sums of gold which he had dug up in the woods : a circumstance which he could not have had from Lucian, there being then no translation of the dialogue that relates to this subject.

Spon says, there is a building near Athens, yet remaining, called Timon's Tower.

Timon of Athens was written, *I* imagine, in the year 1610. See An Attempt to Ascertain the Order of Shakspeare's Plays, vol. ii.